

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling the installation behaviors of a computing device during a software update installation, the method comprising:

obtaining ~~[[a]]~~ software update information to be installed on the computing device, the software update information comprising a software update, a rule for applicability of the software update, and an installation attribute for controlling the installation of the software update; and

~~determining whether an installation attribute is associated with the software update; the software update is applicable to the computing device and if so;~~

~~selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the installation attribute if it is determined that an installation attribute is associated with the software update; and~~

~~installing the update on the client computer according to the modified installation behavior.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein determining whether an installation attribute is associated with the software update comprises determining whether a mandatory installation attribute is associated with the software update; and wherein the installation attribute comprises a mandatory installation attribute; and~~

~~wherein selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the mandatory installation attribute if it is determined that a mandatory installation attribute is associated with the software update comprises disallowing the user of the computing device to selectively not install the software update on the computing device.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, ~~wherein determining whether an~~ the installation attribute ~~[[is]]~~ associated with the software update comprises ~~determining whether a priority installation attribute is associated with the software update; and~~

wherein selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the priority installation attribute if it is determined that a ~~priority installation attribute is associated with the software update~~ comprises temporarily increasing the network bandwidth request for downloading the software update's content.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~determining whether an~~ the installation attribute is associated with the software update comprises ~~determining whether a~~ deadline installation attribute is associated with the software update; and

wherein selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the deadline installation attribute if it is determined that a ~~deadline installation attribute is associated with the software update~~ comprises:

determining whether the deadline for the deadline installation attribute has passed, and if so, automatically installing the software update without further user interaction.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~determining whether an~~ the installation attribute ~~[[is]]~~ associated with the software update comprises ~~determining whether a zero system interruption (ZSI) installation attribute is associated with the software update; and~~

wherein selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the ZSI installation attribute if it is determined that a ZSI installation attribute is associated with the software update comprises:

determining whether the computing device is configured to automatic installation of ZSI software updates, and if so, automatically installing the software update without further user interaction.

6. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions which, when executed on a client computing device, carry out a method for

controlling the installation behaviors of the computing device during a software update installation, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining ~~[[a]]~~ software update information to be installed on the computing device, the software update information comprising a software update, a rule for the applicability of the software update, and an installation attribute operable for controlling the installation of the software update;

~~determining whether an installation attribute is associated with the software update; the sweep date is applicable to the client computing device, and if so:~~

~~selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the installation attribute if it is determined that an installation attribute is associated with the software update; and~~

~~installing the update on the client computer according to the modified installation behavior.~~

7. (Currently amended) The method computer-readable medium of Claim 6 ~~carried out by executing the computer-executable instruction of the computer-readable medium, wherein determining whether an the installation attribute ~~[[is]]~~ associated with the software update comprises ~~determining whether a mandatory installation attribute is associated with the software update; and~~~~

~~wherein selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the mandatory installation attribute if it is determined that a mandatory installation attribute is associated with the software update comprises disallowing the user of the computing device to selectively not install the software update on the computing device.~~

8. (Currently amended) The method computer-readable medium of Claim 6 ~~carried out by executing the computer-executable instruction of the computer-readable medium, wherein determining whether an the installation attribute ~~[[is]]~~ associated with the software update~~

comprises ~~determining whether a priority installation attribute is associated with the software update~~; and

wherein selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the priority installation attribute ~~if it is determined that a priority installation attribute is associated with the software update~~ comprises temporarily increasing the network bandwidth request for downloading the software update's content.

9. (Currently amended) The method computer-readable medium of Claim 6 ~~carried out by executing the computer-executable instruction of the computer-readable medium~~, wherein ~~determining whether an~~ the installation attribute ~~[[is]]~~ associated with the software update comprises ~~determining whether a deadline installation attribute is associated with the software update~~; and

wherein selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the deadline installation attribute ~~if it is determined that a deadline installation attribute is associated with the software update~~ comprises:

determining whether the deadline for the deadline installation attribute has passed, and if so, automatically installing the software update without further user interaction.

10. (Currently amended) The method computer-readable medium of Claim 6 ~~carried out by executing the computer-executable instruction of the computer-readable medium~~, wherein ~~determining whether an~~ the installation attribute ~~[[is]]~~ associated with the software update comprises ~~determining whether a zero system interruption (ZSI) installation attribute is associated with the software update~~; and

wherein selectively modifying the installation behavior of the computing device according to the ZSI installation attribute ~~if it is determined that a ZSI installation attribute is associated with the software update~~ comprises:

determining whether the computing device is configured to automatic installation of ZSI software updates, and if so, automatically installing the software update without further user interaction.

11. (Currently amended) A method for controlling the installation behaviors of a computing device during a software update installation according to associated installation attributes, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining ~~[[a]]~~ software update information to be installed on the computing device, the software update information comprising a software update, a rule for the applicability of the software update, and an installation attribute operable for controlling the installation of the software update;

determining whether the installation attribute is a mandatory installation attribute is ~~associated with the software update~~, and if so, modifying the installation behavior of the computing device with respect to the software update such that the user of the computing device is prevented from selectively not installing the software update on the computing device;

determining whether the installation attribute is a priority installation attribute is ~~associated with the software update~~, and if so, modifying the installation behavior of the computing device with respect to the software update by temporarily increasing the network bandwidth request for downloading the software update's content;

determining whether the installation attribute is a deadline installation attribute is ~~associated with the software update~~, and if so, modifying the installation behavior of the computing device with respect to the software update such that the software update will be automatically installed on the computing device without user interaction if a deadline corresponding the deadline installation attribute has passed;

determining whether the installation attribute is a zero service interruption (ZSI) installation attribute ~~is associated with the software update~~, and if so, modifying the installation behavior of the computing device with respect to the software update such that the software

update will be automatically installed on the computing device without user interaction if the computing device is properly configured; and

installing the update on the client computer according to the modified installation behavior.